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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,880	08/07/2001	Thane M. Larson	10012570-1	9747

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
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EXAMINER

SURYAWANSHI, SURESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/923,880

Applicant(s)

LARSON ET AL.

Examiner

Suresh K. Suryawanshi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/21/05 reconsideration.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14 and 16-21 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 17 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Humpherys et al (US Patent No. 6,098,143; hereinafter Humpherys).

4. As per claim 1, Humpherys discloses a server system comprising:

a plurality of printed circuit assemblies, including at least one host processor card [Fig. 1; col. 2, line 66 -- col. 3, line 13];

a server management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies for monitoring and managing operation of the server system [Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 14-22, 50-54; col. 7, lines 35-40], the server management card receiving and storing status information from the plurality of printed circuit assemblies [Fig. 2; buffer, flash ROM and DRAM storing means; col.

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7, lines 50-59], the server management card including a plurality of interfaces for configuring the server management card and accessing the stored status information from the server management card [Fig. 1; server management board connected to a display and a keyboard; Fig. 2; Modem and NIC connections; col. 3, lines 12-13; col. 4, lines 1-12; col. 7, lines 35-40].

5. As per claim 11, Humpherys discloses a method of communicating with a server system to configure the server system and obtain status information from cards fitted in the server system [Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 10-17, 36-39], the method comprising:

providing a management card in the server system including a plurality of user interfaces [Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to at least a monitor, a keyboard and further having a Modem and a NIC connectors];

transmitting status information from the cards fitted in the server system to the management card [Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 10-17, 36-39; col. 7, lines 35-40, 50-59];

receiving the status information from the management card via one of the plurality of user interfaces [Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 12-13; a display device; col. 4, lines 1-12; Modem/NIC connection];

transmitting configuration information through one of the plurality of user interfaces to the management card [Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 12-13; a keyboard; col. 4, lines 1-12; Modem/NIC connection];

storing the configuration information on the management card [Fig. 1 and 2; buffer, Flash ROM and DRAM; col. 7, lines 50-59]; and

providing multiple simultaneously active connections through the plurality of user interfaces to the management card [Fig. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to at least a display, a keyboard and further having a Modem and a NIC connectors].

6. As per claim 20, Humpherys discloses a server management card for managing the operation of a server system, the server system including a plurality of cards fitted in the server system [Fig. 1; a server management board], the server management card comprising:

a set of bus inputs for receiving status information via at least one system bus from the plurality of cards fitted in the server system [Fig. 1];

a memory for storing the received status information [Fig. 1 and 2; buffer, Flash ROM and DRAM; col. 7, lines 50-59]; and

a plurality of user interfaces for allowing a user to access the server management card, configure the server management card, and access the stored status information [Fig. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to at least a display, a keyboard and further having a Modem and a NIC connectors], the plurality of user interfaces including a LAN interface configured to be coupled to management LAN connections of the plurality of cards and to a management LAN [Fig. 2; NIC interface; col. 4, lines 1-12].

7. As per claim 2, Humpherys discloses that the plurality of interfaces to the server management card include at least one serial port interface and at least one LAN interface [Fig. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to at least a display, a keyboard and further having a Modem and a NIC connectors].

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8. As per claims 3 and 13, Humpherys discloses that the LAN interface is configured to be coupled to a server management LAN [Fig. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to at least a display, a keyboard and further having a Modem and a NIC connectors; inherent to a system having a server management board with NIC to be configurable to connect a server management LAN].

9. As per claim 6, Humpherys discloses that multiple connections through the plurality of interfaces to the server management card may be active at one time [Fig. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 13-14; col. 4, lines 1-12; a server management board connected to a display, a keyboard, a Modem and a NIC; these all could be in connection at one time].

10. As per claims 8 and 17, Humpherys discloses that the server management card is configured to communicate via a telnet protocol through at least one of the plurality of interfaces to the server management card [Fig. 2; inherent to a system having a server management board with Modem/NIC to be configurable to communicate via a telnet].

11. As per claim 21, Humpherys discloses that the LAN interface is dedicated to management LAN communications [Fig. 2; inherent to a system having a server management board with NIC to be configurable to connect a server management LAN].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 4-5, 7, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpherys et al (US Patent No. 6,098,143; hereinafter Humpherys) in view of Gallagher et al (US Patent No. 5,971,804¹; hereinafter Gallagher).

14. As per claims 4 and 12, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not expressly disclose about use of a LCD panel mounted on the server system. But, Humpherys clearly discloses use of a display [Fig. 1]. However, Gallagher expressly discloses a well-known use of a flat panel display and keyboard with trackball mounted on a server [Fig. 3A; col. 6, lines 5-7]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references as both are related to provide the status, control and communication interfaces for the server. Moreover, a routineer would like to use a LCD panel mounted on the server system at least the benefit of saving spacing required by a display monitor.

¹ Prior art cited by the examiner in the prior office action (dated 12/22/04).

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15. As per claims 5 and 14, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not expressly disclose about use of a couple of LCD panels mounted on the server system. But, Humpherys clearly discloses use of a display [Fig. 1]. Though Gallagher expressly discloses a well-known use of a flat panel display mounted on a server [Fig. 3A; col. 6, lines 5-7], Gallagher do not expressly disclose about a second flat panel display mounted on the server. However, a routineer in the art would be able to couple a second LCD panel on a different side of the server as a redundant LCD panel. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a second LCD panel mounted on back of the server system as a redundant panel. Moreover, a routineer would be interested to have more than one LCD user interfaces as this does not require any extra spacing but it will provide a backup user interface.

16. As per claims 7 and 16, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not disclose about a mirrored connection. However, Gallagher discloses such mirrored connection for redundancy purpose [col. 7, lines 9-41; redundant control station]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references as both are related to provide the status, control and communication interface for the server. Moreover, having a redundancy is clearly beneficial as a backup in case the master connection does not work.

17. Claims 9-10 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpherys et al (US Patent No. 6,098,143; hereinafter Humpherys) in view of Nouri et al (US Patent No. 6,088,816; hereinafter Nouri).

18. As per claim 9, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not disclose expressly about a backplane and use of I²C bus. However, Nouri clearly discloses the well-known knowledge of backplanes and I²C buses [Fig. 2; col. 8, line 56 -- col. 9, line 2; col. 9, line 30 -- col. 10, line 61]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references as both are related to displaying a server system status. Moreover, a routineer would utilize a backplane based server as it improves the design flexibility and decreases system cost and hardware complexity by providing a network interconnect for boards that may not include standard network interface hardware.

19. As per claims 10 and 19, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not expressly disclose about limited user accesses. But it is well known in the art to have different levels of user access in a network environment for security reasons. However, Nouri clearly discloses about requiring a correct password entry before a user could access the remote interface [col. 14, lines 8-17; col. 16, lines 53-62]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references as both are related to displaying a server system status. Moreover, a routineer would use password

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and user id based user access levels at least for the reason of security purpose and avoiding any wrong or incorrect configuration setting by an unauthorized user.

20. As per claim 18, Humpherys discloses the invention substantially. Humpherys does not expressly disclose about use of I²C bus. However, Nouri clearly discloses the well-known knowledge I²C buses [col. 9, line 30 -- col. 10, line 61]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references as both are related to displaying a server system status. Moreover, a routineer would utilize I²C bus to improve the design flexibility and to decrease system cost and hardware complexity.

Response to Arguments

21. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 and 16-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suresh K. Suryawanshi whose telephone number is 571-272-3668. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on 571-272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sks
August 4, 2005


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